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News Briefs

2257 Statute Ruled Unconstitutional

As reported on [XBiz](#), [Fleshbot](#) and others, the US federal 6th Circuit Appeals Court ruled that the federal 2257 statute, which dictated record-keeping requirements for publication of photos and films depicting sexually explicit conduct, violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

Interestingly, the court's decision focused partially on the intent of Congress in passing the law, indicating that the constitutionality of the law could not be linked to the intent of the producer of said materials, as it was clearly meant to apply to all sexually explicit depictions.

Legal experts are quick to point out that the court's decision is likely to be appealed, and its applicability as precedent is only directly applicable in the 6th circuit court's own district, which includes Mississippi, Kentucky and Louisiana; adult webmasters tired of filing photocopies of performers IDs should *not* break out the shredder. As Q. Boyer writes in [XBiz](#):

Attorney Lawrence Walters told XBIZ that the court's opinion, while a very significant victory, is not the final word on the question of 2257's constitutionality and cautioned that adult webmasters should not view it as the end of their 2257 concerns.

"Generally, you have to be very careful with reacting too rashly to any opinion," Walters said. "This is a panel ruling, and it is not final. The government could ask for an en banc rehearing by the full circuit, and they can appeal the decision."

Writer Violet Blue Sues Porn Star Violet Blue



As reported in [Wired](#) and elsewhere, writer [Violet Blue](#), who has written professionally since 1998 under her legal name, filed suit against Ada Mae Johnson, who has performed since 2000 under the name Violet Blue, for copyright infringement.

According to the [Wired](#) article, the filing alleges "that Ada Mae Johnson adopted the writer's name and distinctive black, Bettie Page bangs for performances in films such as *Shut Up and Blow Me #29*, *Whore of the Rings* and *Who*





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Violet Blue

Violet Blew."

Having been friends with Violet for a decade, having purchased one of her first professional articles (in 1998), and having taught classes with her with some frequency, I am far from neutral in this matter. Just sayin'.

Art Exhibition Traces History of Sex

The BBC reports on "Seduced: Art and Sex from Antiquity and Now," a new exhibition at the Barbican in Central London that explores the history of erotic art. According to the BBC:

Kate Bush, the Barbican's head of art, has spent five years putting the collection together.

"It's not about porn. It's a thoughtful exhibition, a celebration of what connects all human beings across time and cultures," says Ms Bush.

The aim of the show is to explore the history of what's accepted as art and to throw light on our current attitudes.

And certainly those attitudes have changed. The first exhibit is a cast of the bronze fig leaf which was made so that Queen Victoria would not be offended by the replica of Michelangelo's statue of David in London's Victoria and Albert Museum.



Image of Priapus from Pompeii. Courtesy of Wikipedia.

The visitor then passes a room of pottery showing the antics of Greek and Roman gods and goddesses, through the voluptuous bodies of the Renaissance to contemporary works such as the stylised satirical photographs by Jeff Koons poking fun at the porn industry.

The show runs at the Barbican through January 27, 2008.

Digital Playground Says Goodbye Jana, Hello Stoya

XBiz reported that Digital Playground contract star, Jana Cova was leaving her contract with DP to focus on adult film projects in her native Czech Republic as well as her own website. The parting was reported to be amicable on both sides; "We love Jana" said Digital Playground Director of Marketing Adella O'Neal.

At the same time, DP announced the signing of a new contract star, 21-year-old porcelain-skinned brunette Stoya, a woman any mopey goth boy would gladly take in trade for his candy-apple fairy tale.

In fact, a DP press release described her thus: "With an





Jana Cova in [Jack's Big Ass Show](#) courtesy of [Digital Playground](#). Used with permission.

passionate, Stoya takes pride in her nudity and general moody perception of the world."

Said company contract director Robby D: "[Stoya's] alternative appeal sets her apart from the rest of our stars and it's a pleasure to work with her on set." Stoya will be making her debut in Jack's POV 9, releasing in December. Stoya: Sexual Freak 7 will be released in January.

affliction for pain and suffering, Stoya defines herself only as an android from the future. She loves to make clothes, read good books and play with her cats. Truly unique and intensely



Photograph of Stoya courtesy of [Digital Playground](#). Used with permission.

All Obscenity Charges Dropped Against JM Productions and Five Star Video



According to [XBiz](#), federal prosecutors dropped all federal obscenity charges against JM Productions, producers of the lucky-13th volume in the celebrated American Bukkake saga, which was written about quite famously by author Susannah Breslin, as well as *Filthy Things 6*, *Gag Factor 15* and *Gag Factor 18*.

JM Productions Tony Publicist said to XBiz: "The only official statement that we made was that charges were dropped; I don't have much detail; that's basically all we know or can talk about."

Just a few days later, the judge in the case [dismissed the charges against Five Star Video's Ken Graham](#), reportedly over the strident objections of the prosecutor. The case remains pending against Five Star itself.

News Briefs - by Thomas S. Roche

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